

Message Text

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71

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-14 JUSE-00 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9089

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

DEA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 5726

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, EC

SUBJECT: MONTHLY NARCOTICS REPORT: ECUADOR, OCTOBER 1973

1. GENERAL

A. NATIONAL CIVIL POLICE

1) THE POLICE TECHNICAL COUNCIL APPROVED REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE NARCOTICS SERVICE, THEREBY PROVIDING AN OFFICIAL FRAMEWORK FOR OPERATIONS AND, ONCE APPROVED BY THE MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT, WILL ENABLE EXPENDITURES UNDER THE GOD'S S/1,500,000 (U.S. \$60,000) OPERATING FUND.

2) POLICE OFFICIALS WERE INSTALLED AS HEADS OF THE PROVINCIAL NARCOTICS UNITS IN GUAYAS, EL OROR AND LOJA DURING THE MONTH.

(3) FIVE U.S. VEHICLES FOR USE BY THE PROVINCIAL UNITS OF THE NARCOTICS SERVICE HAVE ARRIVED, THUS SOMEWHAT ALLEVIATING THE EARLIER LACK OF TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES.

B. CUSTOMS PROJECTS AGREEMENT

1) THE NEW COMMANDER GENERAL OF THE CUSTOMS MILITARY POLICE, ARMY LIEUTENANT COLONEL MANUEL ALBUJA, ASSUMED HIS FUNCTIONS LAST MONTH. ALBUJA'S MOST RECENT PREVIOUS
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EXPERIENCE WAS A TRAINING ASSIGNMENT AT THE MILITARY

ACADEMY AND HE HAS NOT HAD ANY PREVIOUS ENFORCEMENT EXPERIENCE.

2) GOE CUSTOMS HAS ASSIGNED A LIAISON OFFICER AND OFFICE SPACE AT CUSTOMS HEADQUARTERS TO THE NEW U.S. CUSTOMS ADVISOR.

C. U.S. ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

DURING THIS REPORTING PERIOD A SPECIAL AGENT OF THE DEA ARRIVED FOR A 60 DAY T
YY ASSSSIIGGNNMMMENT FOR THE SHPCCIFIC
PURPOSE OF OPENING THE GUAYAQUIL OFFICE FOR THE TWO SPECIAL AGENTS TO BE PERMANENTLY ASSIGNED THERE. WITH THIS INCREASE IN PERSONNEL, THE TWO AGENTS IN QUITO WILL BE IN A POSITION TO CONCENTRATE MORE ON THE SIERRA.

D. SEPTEMBER ARRESTS AND SEIZURES

ACCORDING TO POLICE STATISTICS FOR SEPTEMBER, THE LATEST FULL MONTH FOR WHICH FIGURES ARE AVAILABLE, THERE WERE 28 POLICE NARCOTICS INVESTIGATIONS RESULTING IN 72 PERSONS ARRESTED. TWO KILOGRAMS, FIVE HUNDRED AND SIXTEEN GRAMS, OF COCAINE BASE AND 199 GRAMS OF MARIHUANA WERE SEIZED. THE COCAINE SEIZURE TOOK PLACE NEAR THE PERUVIAN BORDER AND REPRESENTS THE CULMINATION OF A POLICE INVESTIGATION BEGUN LAST AUGUST. AID CONTINUES TO BE DISSATISFIED WITH POLICE NARCOTICS SEIZURE STATISTICS BUT BELIEVES THAT THE CREATION OF A SEPARATE NARCOTICS SERVICE WILL PROVIDE AN INCENTIVE FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF MORE COMPLETE AND ACCURATE DATA.

2. OVERALL PROGRESS, MAJOR PROBLEMS AND TRENDS

AS CAN BE SEEN FROM THE FOREGOING, PROGRESS CONTINUES TO BE MADE IN BUILDING THE NECESSARY INFRASTRUCTURE IN ECUADOR FOR AN EFFECTIVE NARCOTICS PROGRAM, BOTH IN TERMS OF EQUIPPING AN ECUADOREAN PROGRAM AND GETTING ON BOARD OUR OWN ADVISORY AND ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL. AND, AS HAS BEEN REPORTED PREVIOUSLY, ACTUAL SEIZURES THUS FAR THIS YEAR HAVE SURPASSED THE TOTAL FOR CY 72.

WE ARE, NONETHELESS, CONFRONTED WITH A NUMBER OF SERIOUS PROBLEMS. AT THE POST'S OCTOBER 25 MEETING OF THE NARCOTICS ACTION CONTROL COMMITTEE (NACC) IT WAS ESTIMATED THAT ECUADOR COULD BE NOW EXPORTING AS MUCH
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AS THREE TO FOUR HUNDRED KILOS OF REFINED COCAINE PER MONTH, REPRESENTING AN APPROXIMATE EXPORT VALUE OF SOME \$35 MILLION ANNUALLY. AS DEPARTMENT KNOWS, HARD FIGURES ARE VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO OBTAIN AND WE MUST EMPHASIZE THAT THE FOREGOING IS ONLY A ROUGH ESTIMATE ARRIVED AT BY EXTRAPOLATING FROM THE FRAGMENTARY DATA AVAILABLE TO US. THE ESTIMATE NONETHELESS REPRESENTS A RATHER DRAMATIC INCREASE OVER EARLIER ESTIMATES. FOR

EXAMPLE, IN MAY OF 1972 BNDD ESTIMATED THE MONTHLY COCAINE EXPORT FIGURE FOR ECUADOR AT ROUGHLY 100 KILOGRAMS PER MONTH. THUS ANY REPORTED INCREASE IN SEIZURES MUST IN PART BE MEASURED AGAINST WHAT HAS OBVIOUSLY BECOME A PROBLEM OF MUCH LARGER DIMENSION. THE POST'S NACC ALSO NOTED THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AID/PSD NARCOTICS PROGRAM IN ECUADOR HAD NOT YET HAD A SIGNIFICANT DIRECTLY OBSERVABLE IMPACT ON THE RATE OF COCAINE SEIZURES AND UPON OUR PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF INCREASING INTERDICTION OF TRAFFIC TO THE UNITED STATES. IT WAS AGREED, HOWEVER, THAT THE PROGRAM WAS A NECESSARY PRECONDITION FOR THE EXISTENCE OF OTHER ELEMENTS OF OUR NARCOTICS EFFORT HERE MORE DIRECTLY RELATED TO INTERDICTION AND THAT THE AID/PSD PROGRAM IS STILL TOO YOUNG FOR ITS DIRECT IMPACT TO BE FULLY FELT OR ASSESSED.

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